

1102-258 Lisgar St.,  
Ottawa. K2P 0C9

Mr. Len Pitura,  
ADM, Community Housing,  
2nd fl - 777 Bay St.,  
Toronto, Ontario.

22 July 1986

Dear Mr. Pitura,

I'm writing to express our appreciation for the changed attitude in your ministry with respect to people suffering environmental hypersensitivity.

Two of the many people in Ottawa-Carleton who need help recently approached Mr. Brian Sutherland in our local OHC office for help. One of the two people with the problem has severe difficulties in urban environments. As a result, Mr. Sutherland's delegate, a Ms Carson, and two representatives from the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Housing Authority, Mr. Lebreton and Mr. Thibeault, demonstrated a much appreciated willingness to help by coming to the applicants' present rural place of residence in order to help expedite their application and assistance.

Ms Carson and Mr. Sutherland also took the step of informing people up the line in OHC that this case involves some urgency, as the two people involved lose their current (and appropriate) place of residence at the end of July.

We all have lots to learn both about defining the housing needs of the environmentally sensitive, and finding ways of meeting these needs. In the meantime we appreciate the fact that you are now encouraging field staff to try to come up with ways of dealing with the problem. A few years ago I tried to help another eastern Ontario woman who had a similar problem, and found provincial officials at the time were rude, uncaring, and disrespectful. I remain concerned about the fact that they even went as far as physically manhandling and otherwise abusing the woman, who had the illness and who had no housing.

The present course of action at the political level, particularly within the Ministry of Health, still gives us cause for great concern. The fact that the Minister of Health would sanction the appointment of someone who is widely known to have demonstrated a bias on the issue in the past to head the current review of the Thomson Commission report indicates that Mr. Elston is uncaring about the severe bigotry people with the illness have faced in the past, and seemingly unwilling to conduct the affairs of his ministry in accordance with normally accepted principles of democracy.

However, while the politicians continue to abuse people with the illness while claiming they do not understand that in fact what they are doing is abusive, your officials in the Ottawa area are demonstrating a newly found attitude of respect which we hope others can learn from.

It is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown  
(613) 237 0928